

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 00997 210118Z
ACTION SS-25

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-----066490 210120Z /63

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0154
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 00997

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, PORG, XF, IS, LE
SUBJECT: HERZOG ON ISRAELI COMPLIANCE WITH SC RESOLUTIONS

1. LEONARD TELEPHONED HERZOG ON MARCH 20 AT
1610 EST TO INFORM HIM THAT KUWAIT REP BISHARA INTENDED
TO CALL A MEETING OF THE SC THIS EVENING CHARGING
THAT ISRAEL WAS CONTINUING ITS MILITARY OPERATIONS AND
REFUSING TO COMPLY WITH SC RESOLUTION 425.

2. HERZOG TOLD LEONARD THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THE
SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS WITH BEGIN THIS MORNING
AND THAT "THERE IS NO PROBLEM IN PRINCIPLE". LEONARD
ASKED WHETHER THIS MEANT ISRAEL WOULD COMPLY WITH THE
COUNCIL'S CALL FOR A CEASEFIRE, WITHDRAWAL AND PLACE-
MENT OF UN FORCES IN LEBANON. HERZOG SAID THAT THIS
WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING AND THAT HE HAD TRIED TO MAKE
BASIC POINT TO REPORTERS AT THE WALDORF ASTORIA THIS
MORNING.

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PAGE 02 USUN N 00997 210118Z

3. READING FROM WEIZMAN'S ACCOUNT OF THE MEETING
WITH SIILASVUO THIS MORNING, HERZOG CHARACTERIZED THE
DISCUSSION AS POSITIVE. HERZOG FURTHER TOLD LEONARD
THAT THERE IS ALREADY A CEASEFIRE. HE THEN
EXPLAINED THIS AS MEANING THAT ISRAELI FORCES WERE
NO LONGER MOVING FORWARD, AND THAT THEY WERE FIRING

ONLY WHEN FIRED UPON.

4. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION AT 1620 LEONARD INFORMED LEBANESE PERMREP TUENI OF HERZOG'S STATEMENTS TO HIM AND AGREED TO TUENI'S REQUEST TO PASS THESE STATEMENTS ON, UNDER ATTRIBUTION, TO HIS GOVERNMENT. TUENI SAID THAT HIS INFORMATION FROM BEIRUT AT 1200 EST INDICATED THAT THE ISRAELIS HAD STOPPED THEIR FORWARD MOVEMENT BUT THAT SHELLING WAS CONTINUING PARTICULARLY AROUND TYRE AND THE RASHIDIAH CAMP. IN GENERAL, THE INTENSITY OF THE FIGHTING WAS DIMINISHING. HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO PASS A COMPLAINT LISTING ISRAELI MILITARY ACTIONS TO WALDHEIM AND HE HAD DONE SO AT 1500 EST. LEONARD

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